



**State of Connecticut**  
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Representative Ritter, Senator Gerantana thank you for the opportunity to testify before you today in favor of SB 369.

It is not uncommon for legislators to come across unintended loopholes or even failures in legislation after it is enacted. Sometimes it is frustrating because the actual legislative intent of our laws gets lost or confused during implementation and thus does not really help or protect the people we target. Sometimes also as legislators we have the opportunity to meet in person the people, or children whose health or safety is impacted by a break in the implementation of the policy.

Today I have with me Emmet and his mom Victoria. Emmet is a very real child whose safety is at risk each day and Victoria is a very concerned mother who worries every time he leaves the safety of her home...

There are thousands of children with Epilepsy in CT and some of them suffer from chronic seizures that can occur anytime and can only be stopped by an injection of diastat. While Diastat has become a virtual miracle drug for the children who suffer from these chronic seizures and their families, time is of the essence during these episodes because the seizure can only successfully be stopped if the medicine is administered quickly.

Children like Emmett need to have a trained adult ready to administer the diastat promptly at all times during the school day. Sometimes the school nurse is available, but what happens if she is not? What if these children are on the bus or taking a field trip or what happens if a school only employs the school nurse part time. Children like Emmet are left at risk.

Our goal in bringing this issue before your committee is to help address a break in the system. A small oversight in policy that threatens the safety of children with chronic seizures each day. We are hoping with your help that we can assure that children like Emmet have a trained adult able to help when seizures occur. We would like to allow any willing teacher, bus driver, Para professional to be trained on the use of diastat so they can respond if one of their student's health or safety requires it.